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Current Organizational Structure of Chinese S&T/Aerospace Agencies and Organizations

In 1993, China reorganized the structure of its science and technology/aerospace agencies and organizations. The current structure is as follows:

State Science and Technology Commission (SSTC)

- SSTC is the Chinese equivalent of OSTP. SSTC formulates and coordinates China's civilian S&T development. It is the organization with which the US signed the S&T Agreement in 1979, and it continues to co-chair the S&T JCM with OSTP. SSTC is not very involved in the day-to-day activities and policies of CNSA and AVIC. SSTC was created in part to serve as the government organization which could sign S&T agreements with foreign countries.

China National Space Administration (CNSA)

- CNSA was established in June 1993 (with the endorsement of the 8th National People's Congress of the PRC in March 1993), in order to carry out and promote the international cooperation in space activities. CNSA is responsible for signing inter-government agreements and conventions in the space activities on behalf of the Chinese government.

China Aerospace Corporation (CASC); (sometimes translated as China Aerospace Industrial Corporation [CAIC])

- Established in June 1993, when the Ministry of Aerospace Industry was split into two -- CASC and AVIC. CASC is China's national industrial space corporation and is under the direct leadership of the State Council. It is responsible for launch vehicles, satellites, missiles and other space products.

Note on CNSA and CASC: CNSA and CASC are two names for the same organization with the same people in charge. CNSA was established as a government agency for the sole purpose of carrying out international cooperation and signing inter-governmental agreements. Because CASC is a corporation, albeit a national industrial corporation, China thought that foreign space agencies such as NASA might be reluctant to sign contracts with it because it was not a government space agency.

CASC has responsibility for 13 Academies and Industries (These academies and industries, in turn, have a number of companies for which they are responsible). Three of CASC's most important academies and industries are:

- China Great Wall Industry Corporation (CGWIC)
 - Acts as the marketing arm of CASC for Long March commercial space launch services and related products.
- China Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology (CALT)
 - Responsible for the development, production and testing of launch vehicles, including the Long March vehicles. CALT is a large comprehensive corporation with 13 research

institutes and six factories. It can undertake the complete production process from parts manufacturing to the integrated assembly.

- Chinese Academy of Space Technology (CAST).
 - CAST is responsible for the development of satellites and ground equipment. The 15 research institutes, centers and factories under CAST are involved in all aspects of satellite development, including: spacecraft structure, thermal control, attitude control, orbit control, on-board electronics, remote sensing, and satellite recovery. CAST also provides recoverable satellites for sounding rockets that serve as microgravity platforms for experiments.

For more details on the organization of CASC Academies and Industries please see the CASC organization chart at the beginning of this section.

Aviation Industries of China (AVIC)

- Established along with CASC in June 1993, AVIC is China's national industrial aviation corporation under the direct leadership of the State Council. AVIC directs and coordinates all 250 state owned aviation enterprises and institutions.

Chinese Aeronautical Establishment (CAE)

- CAE is the largest and most important research institute under AVIC.

Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS)

- CAS is China's national research organization and is broken up into five academic divisions: mathematics and physics; chemistry; biological sciences; Earth sciences; and technological sciences. CAS focuses its research in three areas: basic research; natural resources and environmental and Earth sciences; and applied and development research. There are currently 123 institutes under the authority of CAS. Some of the more relevant institutes are listed in the CAS chart at the beginning of this section:

China Commission of Science, Technology and Industry for National Defense (COSTIND)

- COSTIND coordinates and oversees China's military research and development, testing and evaluation, production, technology transfer and marketing. One of the organizations it is responsible for CLTC.

China Satellite Launch and TT&C [Telecommunications, Tracking and Communications] General (CLTC)

- CLTC is responsible for managing, maintaining and operating China's launch sites and facilities, a satellite control center located in Xian and a global TT&C network. CLTC is responsible for executing satellite launch operations and for providing TT&C services through the conclusion of the mission.

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